

RECOGNIZING THE "LOST THEATRES OF SOMERVILLE" PROJECT

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Somerville Museum on the "Lost Theatres of Somerville" project, a multifaceted exhibition of the architectural, commercial and cultural significance of fourteen movie theaters that were built and operated during the twentieth century.

This "Visual and Oral History of Somerville's Picture Palaces" is an in-depth portrait of Somerville's theatres through compilations of photographs, artifacts and other documents. The exhibit will juxtapose historic accounts of the theatres with present-day photos of the theatre sites.

In addition to the visual displays, a collection of oral histories will provide first-hand narratives about the legendary theaters of Somerville. Dr. Guss, a professor of Sociology and Anthropology at Tufts University, will conduct the oral history component of the exhibit. The Lost Theaters of Somerville display will also include a speaker series. Former theater employees, cultural geographers, anthropologists, and architectural and theatrical historians will share their memories and perceptions of Somerville's theatres.

The Somerville Museum will keep photographs of the theaters in its permanent archives of Somerville history, and oral history tapes will be held at the Somerville Public Library. Retaining these accounts ensures that the legacy of Somerville's twentieth century movie theaters will extend well into the twenty-first century.

Many thanks to the Lost Theaters of Somerville coordinators for the work they have done to document and preserve a very special aspect of Somerville's history.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
HONORING OPERATION RESPECT,
THE "DON'T LAUGH AT ME"
PROGRAM, AND PETER YARROW**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to submit a bipartisan resolution, together with seventeen of my colleagues in the House, recognizing the accomplishments of Operation Respect and of Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary, who founded and helps to promote this outstanding program nationwide.

Operation Respect and its "Don't Laugh At Me" initiative are helping to promote anti-bullying, compassion and tolerance among children in after-school programs and children's camps. The "Don't Laugh At Me" program has been presented in 230 workshops in dozens of congressional districts. Over 18,000 educators in 27 states have received its training materials and professionally-developed curriculum. As we all know, Mr. Yarrow has described in words and song the program's goal and objective to enthusiastic meetings of the

Republican Conference and the Democratic Caucus of the United States House of Representatives.

The "Don't Laugh At Me" program uses character education to promote the social and emotional growth in children. When a child has fewer worries of bullying and intolerant classmates, that child is able to focus on schoolwork as well as create new bonds with fellow students. It is no wonder that teachers, parents and students alike have given very high marks to the "Don't Laugh At Me" program.

Many organizations have commended Operation Respect and the "Don't Laugh At Me" program, including the National Conference of State Legislatures, who passed a resolution in August of 2001 that recognized the value of Operation Respect. Major educational organizations supporting this important initiative include the National Association of Elementary School Principals, National Association of Secondary School Principals, American Association of School Administrators, Council of Great City Colleges of Education, National Education Association, Council of Great City Schools, American School Counselors Association, National School Boards Association, National Middle School Association, and the American Federation of Teachers.

The House should recognize the achievements of Operation Respect and Peter Yarrow in helping to make schools and camps safer, more tolerant, more learning-friendly environments for our children. I would hope that the House would be able to consider this bipartisan resolution in the near future.

INNOCENTS IN UNIFORM

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw to the attention of my colleagues an article written by my friend Princeton Economist Uwe Reinhardt. Dr. Reinhardt is well known to many of us in Congress because of his expertise in health care policy. He's an advisor I rely on for his keen insights, knowledge, and his wit—not a characteristic identified in many health economists.

What many of my colleagues may not know is that Dr. Reinhardt and his wife, May, have a son who is serving in the U.S. Marines on the front lines in Iraq.

Dr. Reinhardt grew up in Germany and saw the horrors of war as a young boy there. His words deserve our attention. He's right. Our thoughts and prayers should extend to all involved in war and against any loss of human life—civilian, military, American or Iraqi.

I commend Dr. Reinhardt's article for your attention. His sentiments are ones I share completely and I thank him for being able to so eloquently say what many of us feel. I hope others will take his words to heart.

[From the New York Times, Mar. 22, 2003]

INNOCENTS IN UNIFORM

(By Uwe E. Reinhardt)

PRINCETON, N.J.—CNN recently showed a Marine chaplain admonishing the platoon assembled before him: Pray not only for yourself, he told them, but for your enemies as well. After all, they are just soldiers, like you, doing what they are ordered to do.

What a refreshing departure these words were from what I've been hearing from the civilian sector, where the talk is mainly of minimizing coalition casualties or, in more generous moments, innocent Iraqi civilian casualties as well. I wince every time I hear that kind of talk, especially the reference to innocence. Should not the proper minimum in any war be loss of human life, period—which in this case includes Iraqi soldiers, too?

My earliest childhood memories were forged by war—real war. My family lived near one of the most ferocious battle grounds of the European war theater—the notorious Hürtgen forest, where American and German soldiers fought one another in hand-to-hand combat for more than four months in the fall of 1944. A plaque at one of the military cemeteries in the area notes that more American soldiers died there than in Vietnam, and surely as many or more German soldiers were killed there too.

My family lived opposite a convent that had been converted into a field hospital for the nearby front. I was a small boy then, and watching the ambulances come and go (sometimes peeking curiously into them), I could not help but become witness daily to the horrors of war. Millions of Europeans of my generation, whom many Americans now disparage so contemptuously as pacifists, had a similar experience.

Because we lived so near the Battle of the Bulge and the advancing, allied forces, our village was strafed and bombed routinely. One such attack came as my friends and I were playing outside. We ran as the planes approached, taking shelter in the cavernous basement of the convent. There we spied a row of stretchers. On each was a body covered entirely by a blanket. Possibly to overcome our own terror, we dared one another to pull back a blanket on one of the stretchers, to see what a dead man looked like. Someone did. We fell silent instantly as we beheld the serene, waxen face of a very young soldier who could not have been older than 16 or 17.

More than 50 years later, I can still see his face clearly. The shock of it recurs whenever I hear the chirpy anchors on the morning programs (not to mention the hawkish talking heads) prattle on about innocent civilians, as if the number of fallen enemy soldiers did not count. What does "innocent" mean in the context of war?

I am almost certain that the young German soldier my friends and I saw so many years ago in that convent basement was as innocent as those of us who weren't in uniform. For all we know, he had grown up on a farm somewhere and, while fighting in the trenches, dreamed of his girlfriend and of life as an adult in peaceful times. For all we know, he would have happily quit fighting and joined the allies. (He didn't have much of a choice: some German generals strung up on trees the bodies of young soldiers who had deserted, a powerful warning to their peers.)

Perhaps many of the Iraqi soldiers, too, find themselves where they are because they have no other choice. After all, is not Saddam Hussein a ruthless dictator, and are not some of his generals likely to be as cruel as their Wehrmacht counterparts?

My hope is that Americans can muster the proper decorum that an enterprise as horrible as war demands. There is nothing neat about maiming and killing people with precision bombs from the air or gunfire on the ground—even if they're wearing enemy uniforms. Young lives are snuffed out; parents, siblings and lovers weep, and so should we. We want our troops to win a quick victory, to be sure. As the father of a young Marine officer on the front lines in Iraq, I certainly do. But let us heed that Marine chaplain